



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

LOCATION

Mountaineer Backpacking Trips travel to northern Alaska and Canada to explore remote and beautiful mountain ranges. Recent groups have traveled to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Mountaineer groups are on-trail approximately 30-40 days.

TRIP LEADERSHIP

Trip leaders are chosen from among Widji's most experienced and advanced staff. All arctic leaders are certified as Wilderness First Responders and hold current Lifeguarding certifications. Our Leaders also have extensive experience leading trips for Widjiwagan and have demonstrated excellent judgement, leadership and interpersonal skills.

REGISTRATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Registration is available on our website www.widji.org. Please contact the Customer Service Center at (612) 230-9622 for help with online registration, particularly if you have forgotten your username password or both. Mountaineer trips require a \$500 non-refundable deposit at the time of registration. The remaining balance for the trip is due in four installments. Other payment plans can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Center. Families are welcome to cancel their registration for a full refund with the exception of their deposit before May 15. We do not grant refunds after May 15. Exceptions may be made in the case of documented illness, injury or family emergency and for campers who opt to withdraw because their scholarship award does not meet their financial needs.

Scholarships are available for qualified campers and can be applied for by following these steps.

1) Review Widjiwagan's Scholarship page: https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/camp_widjiwagan/about/scholarships.

This page contains a link to the YMCA Scholarship Application and information on volunteer credit opportunities.

Advanced campers are invited to participate in our volunteer credit program to earn a discount on their session.

2) Complete the Initial YMCA Scholarship Application online or by paper form: <https://www.ymcamn.org/scholarships>.

The initial application considers your annual income and the number of adults and dependents in your household.

Scholarships are awarded to align with your individual circumstances. This initial application applies to all YMCA programming including Camps. You will receive an email notification from the YMCA Customer Service Center indicating the initial scholarship amount available to you.

3) If the initial scholarship award does not meet your family needs, we encourage you to reply to that email with a request for an "exception" and indicate Camp Widjiwagan as your program of interest. You will receive a follow up email asking for a narrative that explains your need for additional assistance. You will be asked to answer the following questions:

- Are there any additional circumstances that we should be aware of and take into consideration? Please include unusual expenses or debts that affect your monthly budget as well as any financial changes that may have happened over the last two years.
- If applicable; please have your camper share why they want to attend camp this summer.

Widjiwagan's Camper Services Committee will receive and review these requests in an anonymous format and consider additional scholarship awards. Please note, committee review can take up to 14 business days. You will be notified of the outcome via email. We recognize that arctic trips stretch the financial resources of many families. The Widji Administrative Team and Board raise funds annually to ensure that this capstone experience is accessible. We encourage enthusiastic, committed campers to register and apply for a scholarship. The majority of families who apply for a scholarship receive some assistance.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Mountaineer trip is the most remote backpacking trip that Widji offers. The environment that Mountaineer groups travel through is dynamic and can be unpredictable. There are inherent risks associated with travel in the far north. These include but are not limited to: cold water temperatures, remote travel, rugged terrain and large rivers crossings. Widjiwagan Trail Counselors are certified Wilderness First Responders, which includes extensive training to mitigate risks in the backcountry as well as respond to incidents appropriately. However, we cannot guarantee that your camper's trip will be accident free this summer. In addition to experience and training, all groups are equipped with multiple communication devices. These include an InReach device and satellite phone along with a contact list of emergency resources specific to the area of travel. We expect that Mountaineer campers will help mitigate potential risks by arriving at Camp mentally and physically prepared for a rigorous experience. Your camper's counselor and the Widji administration will provide guidance about trip preparation during the winter and spring.

CAMP WIDJIWAGAN

3788 North Arm Rd. Ely, MN 55731
P 651 645 6605 W widji.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

651 Nicollet Mall, Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55402

WIDJIWAGAN
YMCA WILDERNESS ADVENTURES